

DBC Eco Church Newsletter

February 2024

Welcome to our Newsletter.

For more information about the Dronfield Baptist Eco Church Group contact - margaret.keen@talk21.com

A Problem with Seeds (Trade Matters January 2024)

It goes without saying that seeds are the life blood of our food system – but farmers' rights to exchange, sell and use the seeds they want to are not guaranteed.

Smallholder farmers in the Global South know their seeds – they are their livelihood. They know the best varieties that work in their soil and when to bank and save seeds for a later date. This is the kind of farming that builds climate resilience and biodiversity – vital in a time when harvests are threatened by extreme weather.

The right for these farmers to choose their own seeds is under threat. New laws, heavily lobbied for by big business, are being introduced across many countries to limit what smallholders can do with their seeds – in alignment with seed patent laws.

These laws have taken effect in Kenya – meaning local farmers can no longer share, exchange or sell their own seeds. As a result, many farmers are left with no choice but to buy often costly certified commodity seeds from certified companies. Just four corporate giants (Bayer, Corteva, BASF and ChemChina/Syngenta) own 60% of the global seed market.

In effect, this replaces local knowledge and biodiversity with commoditised, mass market seeds that are often designed to be used with harmful, and expensive, fertilisers and pesticides.

Transform Trade works with village groups in Jharkhand, India to create community seed banks, which operate like a library – seeds can be borrowed and returned, and diverse varieties preserved for future generations.

Community based seed sharing instead of corporate control is often better for the environment, safeguards local knowledge and prevent local farmers from paying overinflated prices just to sow their crops.

But the UK Government is pressuring countries in the Global South to introduce more restrictive seed laws by putting these requirements in its free trade deals. Currently the UK has 21 trade agreements that promote these laws. It is vital that farmers' rights to seeds are protected and that restrictive seed laws are left out of these deals.

During 2024 Transform Trade will be introducing ways we can take action and tell the UK Government to keep seeds in the hands of those that know their land the best. Keep an eye out for further updates in this newsletter.

Don't forget - Get your tubs to our pubs!

There is still time to get your tubs to The Chequers pub at Coal Aston. Get them there by 11 February.

They will accept your clean and empty:

Confectionery tubs
Biscuit tubs
Cracker tubs

THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT

11-17 MARCH

IT'S BACK!

In 2022, a quarter of a million people from households, schools, businesses and communities across the country made **The Big Plastic Count the biggest ever investigation into UK household plastic waste.** By counting your plastic waste for 1 week, you helped us to reveal a shocking truth: that the UK throws away 2 billion pieces of plastic every week, only 12% of which is recycled.

In 2024, governments will be negotiating a Global Plastics Treaty that could finally phase out plastic production for good. And so, we're doing The Big Plastic Count again - this time we'll be using the results to convince UK ministers to lead the way at these talks and push for a really strong treaty.

It's a massive opportunity, but we have to act fast...and we need your help!

Go to The Big Plastic Count website to register www.bigplasticcount.com

Dronfield Baptist Church Freecycle



A green LeapFrog LeapPad 3x Learning Tablet plus a green LeapBand and Green Case



A pink LeapFrog LeapPad 3 Learning Tablet plus a pink LeapBand and pink Case



A Kidzoom Action cam with waterproof case and mounting bracket.

DVDs, Pokemon Heroes the movie and Lego Ninjago movie

Contact Mike Herman on 07759820818

Just send me an email – margaret.keen@talk21.com with details of what you would like me to include with a photo and any relevant sizes etc. and I will include it in the next Newsletter.